The Mayfly

Prologue:

It wasn’t that she never thought about it. It was just that she never wanted to say it out loud. It was one of those things that you just don’t tell somebody the first time you meet them; but lies grow and become so extensive that you don’t even remember how it all started. She really liked this boy. She really wanted to continue her relationship with him and even possibly become more than friends. But how come one thing in her life that was good had to be so short-lived?

Her name is Kaya Jennson. Well, that’s what most people think her name is. Ever since she was a young girl, she wished her mom had named her “Kaya”, but instead she was a “Anne”. Just a regular, unimportant and ordinary, “Anne”. 13 people in her old school had the same name. Nobody had “Kaya”. Maybe it was her need to stand out or her desire to feel special, but without her parents knowing, she told everybody her name was Kaya. Anne moved schools a lot. It was easy for her to switch names without anybody finding out. When she was in middle school she hated her dad for always moving, and separating her from her good friends. Now, she was glad. Every time she moved, she was given a chance not a log people got. She could start over.

It had been 3 weeks since she moved to her latest school in Maine. She always enjoyed the cold weather and the perfect September breeze seemed to make all her problems fly away. Still, she had her worries. Her biggest one was starting the next day. Now that she was settled down and used to her neighborhood, she had to go to school. She was a 3rd quarter transfer student in her senior year. Anne was actually looking forward to it. Even though Anne wasn’t the expert at making friends, the years of experience added to her instincts and now she was able to be the perfect new kid in school. Being the “new kid” wasn’t too bad anymore. Anne was now immune to the treatment and didn’t mind the many eyes and obvious whispers that followed her the entire first day. She always expected a change every time she moved schools. Even though for the past six times nothing but disappointments followed her flawed anticipation, something about moving and something about being able to start fresh excited her.

Anne didn’t only lie about her name. She lied about her dad’s job, address, and past. It was sort of a game she played by herself every time she moved. Nobody knew about it. Nobody knew her past and as soon as anybody got too close to her, she would move. It would be perfect. It had been perfect until now.

Anne didn’t like feeling attached. She didn’t want to become too comfortable in one place because she knew it will be over soon. This probably gave her a reason to fabricate her past and not think much of what she was doing. Now in her new school Anne had a new identity. Anne’s name was Kaya, her dad was a famous dermatologist who had multiple hospitals around the world. She is living in a isolated and wealthy neighborhood and can not give too much details because of security issues. She has one brother who is studying law at Harvard and her mom used to be a famous dancer in Broadway but had retire after she was born. Kaya became instantly famous. Kaya made new friends, got decent grades and had good relations with her teachers.

Then Seth Myers came along. Seth was also a transfer student who moved a lot as a child. Kaya, who was now popular and comfortable in her new school, introduced her self to him and they became good friends. Something about Seth drew Kaya to him. His honesty and purity fulfilled that missing link for her and allowed herself to feel those emotions through him. There were times when Kaya wanted to relate to Seth. When Seth was sitting all alone in the lunch table, when he was wandering the hallways looking for somebody to tell him the correct way to Calculus class, and especially when her friends talked about his worn out shoes, she wanted to defend him and stick up for the new “new kid”.

Even with her desires and feelings of doubt Kaya never risked anything. Knowing that she would be leaving school in 5 weeks, Kaya knew that her plan and story would last long enough to maintain her position in school. Then it happened.

“Hey Kaya, so I need to get a zit therapy from your dad. Is it okay if I drop by his hospital to get some treatment? I need to look good in my senior picture!”

Kaya was startled. She had not thought about this. Her close friend and the biggest gossip she had ever seen in her life was asking to visit her dad’s hospital. Kaya’s dad might have been a famous dermatologist, but Anne’s dad was a car dealer downtown the old used- care retail center. But, Anne was good at covering things up.

“Oh, I’m sorry. He left town to go to his other hospitals. He won’t be coming back until about 2 months later. I’m sorry Natalie, but I don’t think his hospital would be open at all,” said Kaya.

“Oh, okay, well, that’s too bad. Thanks anyways babes.”

The next day was the start of all the nightmare Anne did not want. Natalie had gone to the supposedly hospital of Kaya’s dad over the weekend nonetheless. She asked around and of course, there was no Dr. Jennson. It was all over school. Everybody knew about it and Kaya still had 4 weeks and a half until school was officially over. Everything was found out. Everybody knew about her fabricated life and stories. Still, everybody thought she was Kaya.

Anne moved down to day one, but the whispers and stares were more public and unhidden. She sat alone in lunch tables, she couldn’t talk to anybody, and she wasn’t even given the chance to explain the stream of lies that tricked the whole school.

The bell rang, and school was over. All the days dragged on until the last day of school when the final bell dismissed all the students. Anne slowly walked out and saw the sun. She had endured 4 weeks of solitude and loneliness. Then a voice from back said,

“Hey Anne, wait up,” said Seth Myers. “That is your name right? I like it. Well, at least better than Kaya.”

Until now Anne does not know how Seth found out about her real name. It was the last part of her during her senior year he wished was kept a secret. But somehow, she was the happiest girl in the world when her vital secret was revealed by somebody who understands. Nobody heard Seth, but it didn’t matter. Anne was Anne and now she could start off with another new identity. It would be her identity, Anne’s identity.